

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ± 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one lower-side magnet ~~(12)~~ is guided with the line ~~(2)~~, facing the distribution surface ~~(6)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the distribution surface ~~(6)~~ has at least one distribution-surface magnet ~~(14)~~, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lower-side magnet ~~(12)~~ as it approaches.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ± 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one lateral magnet ~~(16)~~ is guided with the line ~~(2)~~, facing the lateral guides ~~(8)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the lateral guides ~~(8)~~ have

at least one lateral-guide magnet ~~(18)~~, in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lateral magnet ~~(16)~~ as it approaches.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~±~~ 45, wherein the line ~~(2)~~ can be folded in the distribution trough ~~(4)~~, in such a manner that a first section ~~(24)~~ can be laid down with its lower side that faces the distribution surface ~~(6)~~, above an upper side, facing away from the distribution surface ~~(6)~~, of a second section ~~(26)~~ connected with the first ~~by means of~~ via a bent section.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 4, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ ~~is~~ guided with the upper side of the second section ~~(26)~~ as well as the lower side of the first section ~~(24)~~, in each instance, whereby a magnetic pole of the upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ on the first section ~~(24)~~ faces a similarly named pole of the upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ on the second section ~~(26)~~, so that the first section ~~(24)~~ can be held

suspended, at least over part of its length, above the second section ~~(26)~~.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 5, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed along the first and the second section ~~(24, 26)~~, at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the first section ~~(24)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles along the second section ~~(26)~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 2, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ are disposed along the line ~~(2)~~, at a distance from one another, and several distribution-surface magnets ~~(14)~~ are disposed on the distribution surface ~~(6)~~, at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the line ~~(2)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface ~~(6)~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according

to claim 3, wherein several lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ are disposed along the lateral guides ~~(8)~~, at a distance from one another, and the at least one magnet comprises several lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ are disposed along the sides of the line ~~(2)~~ that face the lateral guides ~~(8)~~, at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles of the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 8, wherein the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ are disposed on every lateral guide ~~(8)~~ in two rows that run at a distance from one another, one above the other.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~3~~ 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the line ~~(2)~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according

to claim ~~±~~ 45, wherein the at least one magnet comprises lower-side magnets and/or lateral magnets and/or upper-side magnets and the line ~~(2)~~ is disposed in a carrier ~~(10, 20, 30)~~ that carries the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the outer surface of the carrier ~~(10, 20, 30)~~.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed in the carrier ~~(10, 20, 30)~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed in accommodation openings in the outer surface of the

carrier ~~(10, 20, 30)~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a sheath ~~(10)~~ that encloses the line ~~(2)~~.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a plastic mass ~~(20)~~ in which several lines ~~(2)~~ are embedded.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is a power supply chain ~~(30)~~.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ is disposed on the upper side of a lower stringer ~~(36)~~ of the power supply chain ~~(30)~~, and on the lower side of an upper stringer ~~(38)~~ of the power supply chain

~~(30)~~, in each instance, in such a manner that a magnetic pole on the upper stringer ~~(38)~~ faces a similarly named magnetic pole on the lower stringer ~~(36)~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 19, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer ~~(38)~~ and on the upper side of the lower stringer ~~(36)~~, at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer ~~(38)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer ~~(36)~~.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, wherein the at least one magnet comprises ~~power supply chain (30)~~ has at least one lower-side magnet ~~(12)~~ on ~~its~~ a lower side of the power supply chain, facing the distribution surface ~~(6)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the distribution surface ~~(6)~~ has at least one distribution surface magnet ~~(14)~~, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lower side magnet ~~(12)~~ as it approaches.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 21, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ are disposed along the lower side, at a distance from one another, and several distribution-surface magnets ~~(14)~~ are disposed on the distribution surface ~~(6)~~ at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the lower side face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface ~~(6)~~.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, wherein the at least one magnet comprises ~~power supply chain (30)~~ has at least one lateral magnet ~~(16)~~ on ~~its~~ sides of the power supply chain facing the lateral guides ~~(8)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the lateral guides ~~(8)~~ have at least one lateral-guide magnet ~~(18)~~, in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that a magnetic pole of the lateral guide magnet ~~(18)~~ faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the lateral magnet ~~(16)~~.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according



to claim 23, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ are disposed along the power supply chain ~~(30)~~, at a distance from one another, and several lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ are disposed along the lateral guides ~~(8)~~, at a distance from one another, in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles of the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 24, wherein the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ are disposed in two rows that run at a distance from one another and on top of one another.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, wherein the distribution trough ~~(4)~~ has a slide rail ~~(40)~~ for laying down the upper stringer ~~(38)~~, ~~that~~ wherein at least one slide-rail magnet ~~(42)~~ is disposed on the slide rail ~~(40)~~, and ~~that~~ wherein the at least one magnet comprises at least one upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ ~~is~~ disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer ~~(38)~~ that faces the slide rail ~~(40)~~, in such a

manner that a magnetic pole of the upper-side magnet (28) faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the slide-rail magnet (42).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim 26, wherein the at least one magnet comprises several upper-side magnets (28) ~~are~~ disposed on the power supply chain (30), at a distance from one another, and several slide-rail magnets (42) are disposed on the slide rail (40), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the upper-side magnets (28) face similarly named magnetic poles of the slide-rail magnets (42).

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~±~~ 45, wherein the distribution trough (4) is made of a non-magnetic material, ~~preferably plastic, aluminum or an aluminum alloy.~~

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~±~~ 45, further comprising ~~wherein the~~ lateral-guide magnets (18) and/or ~~the~~ distribution-surface magnets (14) and/or

the slide rail magnets ~~(42)~~ are disposed on the surface of the distribution trough ~~(4)~~.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~±~~ 45, further comprising ~~wherein the~~ lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ and/or the distribution-surface magnets ~~(14)~~ and/or the slide rail magnets ~~(42)~~ are inserted into openings in the distribution trough ~~(4)~~.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according to claim ~~±~~ 45, further comprising lateral-guide magnets and/or distribution-surface magnets and/or slide rail magnets, wherein the at least one magnet comprises lateral magnets and/or lower-side magnets and/or upper-side magnets and the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ and/or the distribution-surface magnets ~~(14)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ and/or the slide rail magnets ~~(42)~~ are permanent magnets.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~Device~~ The device according

to claim ~~±~~ 45, further comprising lateral-guide magnets and/or distribution-surface magnets and/or slide rail magnets, wherein the at least one magnet comprises lateral magnets and/or lower-side magnets and/or upper-side magnets and the lateral-guide magnets ~~(18)~~ and/or the distribution-surface magnets ~~(14)~~ and/or the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ and/or the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ and/or the slide rail magnets ~~(42)~~ are electromagnets.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ A power supply chain, for use in a distribution device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, comprising at least one upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ on the upper side of its lower stringer ~~(36)~~ and at least one upper-side magnet ~~(28)~~ on the lower side of its upper stringer ~~(38)~~, whereby a magnetic pole on the lower stringer ~~(36)~~ faces a similarly named magnetic pole on the upper stringer ~~(38)~~.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein several upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the upper side of its lower stringer ~~(36)~~ and on

the lower side of its upper stringer ~~(38)~~, in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer ~~(38)~~ face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer ~~(36)~~.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain, for use in a distribution device according to claim ~~18~~ 46, comprising at least one lower-side magnet ~~(12)~~ on its lower side and/or at least one lateral magnet ~~(16)~~ on the lateral surfaces of the chain links.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 35, wherein the lateral magnets ~~(16)~~ are disposed on its lateral links ~~(34)~~.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the connection crosspieces ~~(32)~~ that connect the lateral links ~~(34)~~.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain

according to claim 33, wherein the lower-side magnets ~~(12)~~ and/or the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ are disposed on the lateral links ~~(34)~~ of the power supply chain ~~(30)~~.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 33, wherein a pair of upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ is disposed on every chain link, symmetrical to the center longitudinal plane, extending on both sides in the longitudinal direction of the chain link.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 39, wherein the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ have elevations ~~(28a, 28b, 28c)~~ that run in their longitudinal direction and point away from the chain links.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 40, wherein the elevations ~~(28a, 28b, 28c)~~ of the upper-side magnets ~~(28)~~ of consecutive chain links are disposed at different distances from their sides.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 41, wherein in the case of each chain link, the elevations ~~(28a, 28b, 28c)~~ are disposed as in the case of the nth subsequent chain link, whereby n is a natural number.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 42, wherein n is greater than or equal to 3.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended): ~~Power~~ The power supply chain according to claim 33, ~~wherein it has~~ comprising rollers that roll along the lateral guides ~~(8)~~ on its sides facing the lateral guides ~~(8)~~ of a distribution trough ~~(4)~~.

Claim 45 (New): A distribution device comprising:

(a) at least one line;

(b) a distribution trough for receiving the at least one line, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides; and

(c) at least one magnet guided with the at least one line, said at least one magnet being disposed on or underneath a side of the line pointing downwards;

wherein said at least one magnet holds the at least one line suspended in the distribution trough at least over a part of a length of the at least one line.

Claim 46 (New): A distribution device comprising:

- (a) a power supply chain comprising at least one magnet; and
- (b) a distribution trough for receiving the power supply chain, said distribution trough having a distribution surface and lateral guides;

wherein said at least one magnet holds the power supply chain suspended in the distribution trough at least over a part of a length of the power supply chain.